

Youngblood Hounded Out of His Job

By Jack Anderson

Rufus Youngblood, hero of the John F. Kennedy shooting, has been hounded out of the Secret Service. His heroism in shielding Lyndon Johnson from the assassin's bullets, ironically, marked him as a "Johnson man" with the Republicans who inherited the White House.

Actually, he served for six years under President Eisenhower on the White House detail. But on that tragic Nov. 22, 1963 in Dallas, he was guarding the Vice President. When assassin Lee Harvey Oswald opened fire on the presidential procession, Youngblood bolted over the front seat and threw his body on top of Johnson.

Youngblood's first reaction was that the shooting might be part of a plot against the lives of all America's top leaders. So he hustled LBJ into an emergency room of the Dallas hospital, guarded him with a drawn revolver and then rushed him secretly to Air Force One.

In his memoirs, Johnson recalls: "Agent Youngblood's quick reaction was as brave an act as I have ever seen anyone perform. When a man, without a moment's thought or hesitation, places himself between you and a possible assassin's bullet, you know you have seen courage. And you never forget it."

For his bravery, Youngblood

received the Treasury Department's "exceptional service" award.

After Richard Nixon moved into the White House, however, the new crowd considered Youngblood too close to the former President. Nixon aides suggested quietly to the Secret Service that he be moved out of the White House.

He was given a desk across the street at Secret Service headquarters. Thereafter, he was subjected to petty harassments until he quietly resigned last June after reaching eligibility for his 20-year pension. At 48, he was at the peak of his career.

Youngblood doesn't believe President Nixon personally had anything to do with his treatment. "President Nixon is a gentleman," Youngblood told us. He refused to comment on whether Nixon's aides, on their own authority, had put the squeeze on him. Nor was he critical of the Secret Service.

Senate Samson

Footnote: Youngblood has been sounded out, we learned, about the police chief's job in his native Atlanta after the present chief, Herbert Jenkins, reaches the mandatory retirement age in January. The once gentle Sen. Phil Hart (D-Mich.), who has been as ferocious as Samson since he grew the Senate's first beard, recently stormed

into Boston and accused the banks of decreeing where poor blacks could buy houses.

He charged that Boston's Brahmin bankers, in cahoots with real estate operators and federal officials, staked out the neighborhoods where homes would be sold to the poor. The appearance of low-income blacks would panic the home owners into selling out cheaply to unscrupulous real estate men who would turn around and sell the homes at fancy profits to the blacks.

This block-busting was financed, Hart showed, by the banks. The result was the creation of instant ghettos, followed by foreclosures on federally-insured loans.

Now Hart's Senate subcommittee has been quietly approached by city officials or civic groups in New York, Philadelphia, Kansas City and Dayton, requesting him to repeat the same act in their towns.

In Dayton, one of the nation's most promising all-metro congresses has hammered out a fine housing plan. A Dayton Community Development official, Joseph Wine, explained why it was delayed.

"We have the same hang-ups as in Boston," he said. "The FHA is bigoted. It has traditionally been in bed with the real estate operators and the banks. They've red-lined the areas where the poor and the blacks can live."

Skinning the Poor

In New York City, A. W. Hessel, a city officer running the Laurelton Neighborhood Action Program, told us that private mortgage firms are breaking up a stable integrated neighborhood and skinning the poor blacks who are moving in, just as in Boston.

In Philadelphia, Assistant Housing Director Ivan Gluckman also asked Hart to investigate. Gluckman explained to us that the Philadelphia bankers are more subtle. "They don't fleece the people with high interest rates," he said. "They loan money to the loan companies that do. Then the lenders decide what sections of Philadelphia live and what sections die."

The most outraged comment came from an attractive grandmother, Ruth Shechter, president of the Greater Kansas City Council on Religion and Race. "Either the FHA is in cahoots with the real estate interests or is just plain stupid," she charged.

Footnote: Hart is bringing his hearings to the poor, because they don't have money to travel to Washington to make their cases. In Boston, Hart's staff had to provide baby-sitting and bus-fare money from their own pockets to the impoverished black witnesses who blew the whistle on the Boston bank presidents.